

BLAIR HOUSE

1651-1653 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

This restrained town house, its first section built in the 1820s, has been enlarged and remodeled a number of times since. It has served as the federal government's official guest residence since 1942 and is significant for the great number of dignitaries who have resided or have been received within its walls. Blair House, named for Francis Preston Blair, Sr., who bought it in 1836, served as President Truman's home during the time the White House was being remodeled. The complex was restored in 1988 and enlarged yet again at the same time.